

NAME: _____

Due Date for Essay: Thursday April 2nd
Presentations will start on Tuesday April 7th

The Skinny: In this assignment, you will be performing a detailed and in depth analysis of a poem, researching the poet and historical context/significance of the piece, composing a formal academic essay regarding this analysis and research, and then presenting your findings and thoughts to the class in a seminar format.

First, with my help, choose a poem from our anthology. Perform a systematic reading series of the poem (according to our 8 step process!) and take notes.

Then, conduct some research on the life/works/significance of the poet and of the time period the piece was composed in – was the poet part of a specific literary/intellectual movement? To what extent? How were they influenced by their context? How did they influence *it*?

From all of this (your analysis, your research, your evaluative thoughts) you will:

1. Prepare an exciting, participatory, and thorough presentation on your poem for the class – it should be between 10 and 15 mins for this, you can have visual aids (pictures/ images) and anything else you believe would be helpful – music, costumes, activities, etc. You will be systematically taking your audience (the class through a formal reading and analysis of your poem.
2. Compose a formal write up on the poem of approximately **500-750** words.
 - ☒ your essay should be well organized, well supported, have quotations from the poem, and follow the rules and standards of academic writing, including rigorous proofreading and editing
 - ☒ remember to CITE any sources you use in MLA format (you did research on the poet, right? Good! CITE it. I'll provide you samples.

In your presentation and write up, ALL of the following should be addressed:

- the life of the poet – your thoughts on the contributions of this to the piece
- the context of the poem – the movement/time period it was composed in and how this affected the piece...its historical and contemporary significance(s)
- the structure of the poem (lyrical/narrative, closed/open) and its contribution to meaning
- the theme of the poem – be prepared to defend!
- the tone of the poem – does it shift or endure?
- the poet's use of figurative language (metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification, metonymy, etc.) and what each of the examples contributes to the overall meaning and expression of the poem – don't just point them out – remember the WHAT, the HOW, and the WHY
- the poet's use of literary devices (alliteration, allusion, repetition, echo, enjambment, paradox, imagery, symbolism, etc.) and their contributions to the poem
- the overall success and effect of the poem – what the poet was trying to achieve, what the experience of the poem is like for you, what you think its enduring relevance will be.

What can you use to help? The dictionary, the symbols book, a poetry handbook, your anthology, web-based research, the TPS literary terms list, the internet, the library, each other!!!

Your marking scheme:

Knowledge and Understanding /10

- course terms are used correctly
- essay is well organized and formatted, and to length specifications
- all information on poet and context is correct
- all remarks re. literary analysis (essay/presentation) are correct
- all instructions are followed

Thinking /10

- literary analysis is sophisticated and well connected
- historical/autobiographical information is well selected and relevant
- theme is well selected and well-defended
- tone is well selected and well-defended
- figurative language and poetic devices are suitably unpacked and connected to meaning and effect

Communication /10

- essay is well organized and follows the standards of academic formatting and writing
- no careless errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation in any written material
- in seminar, voice is clear, the appropriate volume, and speed
- material is clear and well supported by direct examples/quotations from the poem
- reading of poem aloud is clear, exciting, and well-paced to enhance meaning

Application /10

- you lead the seminar with confidence and control
- you have applied all of the skills we've practiced in class
- your seminar is dynamic, interesting, and offers an analytical and elevated reading and experience with the poem
- your visual aids/activities are useful and extend understanding
- your essay shows growth in writing skills – it is clear that it was vigorously edited and proofread...it is well titled, presented, and cited in the MLA format